



DC Emancipation Day

April 16, 2007

A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WHEREAS, on April 16, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act that freed all enslaved persons in the District of Columbia, and officially abolished slavery in the nation's capital; and

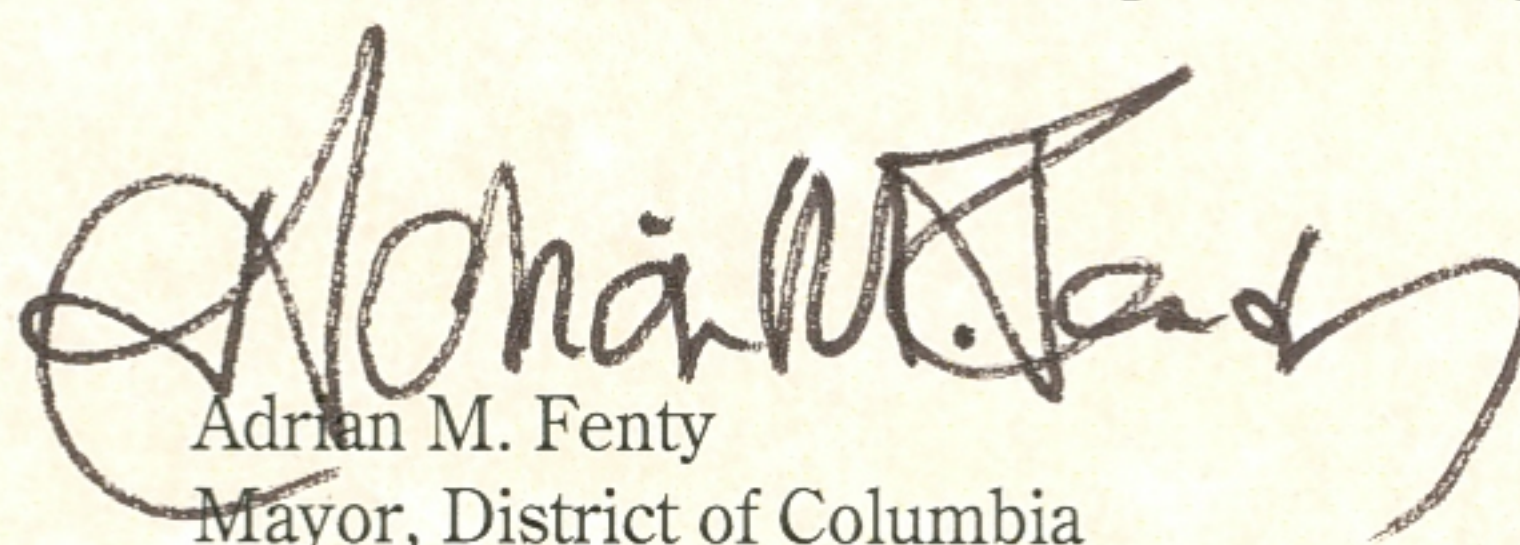
WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act of April 16, 1862, freed 3,100 slaves in the District of Columbia; and through this Act, Congress established a commission to appraise the monetary value of these individuals and appropriated more than one million dollars to compensate former slave owners for freeing those held captive in slavery; and

WHEREAS, enslaved persons in the District of Columbia were the first freed as a result of the Compensated Emancipation Act of April 16, 1862, and in recognition thereof, African Americans have traditionally held Emancipation Day celebrations as annual events to celebrate the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, this Emancipation Commemorative Celebration marks the 145th Anniversary of the Compensated Emancipation Act in the District of Columbia, and during this celebration the District of Columbia is hosting a March to the Capitol in support of full and complete representation in the Congress of the United States for the residents of the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Emancipation Day is a legal public holiday in the District of Columbia and is celebrated on April 16 of each year:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2007, as **"DC EMANCIPATION DAY"** in Washington, DC, and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me to educate the world about the need to complete the process Abraham Lincoln began on April 16, 1862, and achieve full emancipation through equal voting rights.



Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor, District of Columbia

